

**Senate Joint Resolution**

**No. 12**

---

**Introduced by Senator Rubio**

August 15, 2011

---

Senate Joint Resolution No. 12—Relative to fatherhood.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 12, as amended, Rubio. Fatherhood.

This measure would urge the President and the Congress to pursue a comprehensive approach to *addressing issues facing boys and men of color by promoting* positive father involvement and mentoring for children that affirms that fathers and positive ~~adult men~~ *male role models* are a critical ~~parts~~ *part* of the lives of ~~children~~ *children*, and to ~~direct~~ *redirect* the *distribution of* funds and resources of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to the State of California as part of the White House Initiative on Fatherhood and Mentoring *to assist underserved boys and men of color throughout the state*, as specified.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1     ~~WHEREAS, The health and well-being of California's children~~
- 2     ~~is enhanced when mothers, fathers, and caregivers dedicate their~~
- 3     ~~time and attention to their healthy development and growth; and~~
- 4     ~~WHEREAS, California appreciates the many fathers who~~
- 5     ~~support all aspects of their children's lives and demonstrate their~~
- 6     ~~love and support through their actions and words; and~~
- 7     ~~WHEREAS, In California, boys and men of color experience~~
- 8     ~~proportionally higher rates of poverty and discrimination related~~
- 9     ~~inequalities than members of other groups, including low~~

1 *educational attainment, subpoverty wage employment, victimization*  
2 *or death from violence, contact with the justice system and*  
3 *incarceration, incidence of substance abuse, and overall poor*  
4 *quality of life and health.*

5 WHEREAS, California recognizes that at a time of reduced  
6 resources, fathers *and other positive male role models* must not  
7 be overlooked as ~~an a valuable asset to their children, families,~~  
8 ~~and communities; and~~ *when addressing the issues facing boys and*  
9 *men of color; and*

10 WHEREAS, Organizations that serve the social and educational  
11 interests of children ~~must look to both fathers and mothers to~~  
12 ~~increase the positive influence that engaged and dedicated parents~~  
13 ~~provide for children; and~~ *boys and men of color must understand*  
14 *and incorporate a culturally appropriate approach to providing*  
15 *services; and*

16 WHEREAS, ~~Children~~ *boys of color* with present and engaged  
17 fathers ~~are more likely to have close, or positive male role models~~  
18 *in their lives are more likely to have* enduring relationships than  
19 ~~those whose without fathers are absent, or male role models, and~~  
20 these relationships contribute to long-term happiness, well-being,  
21 and social and academic success; and

22 WHEREAS, ~~Children~~ *boys of color* living apart from their  
23 ~~biological~~ fathers *and positive male role models* often confront  
24 obstacles that place them at risk for increased drug and alcohol  
25 use and reduced educational achievement; and

26 WHEREAS, ~~Children with nonresident fathers are 54 percent~~  
27 ~~more likely to be poorer than their fathers; and~~

28 WHEREAS, The involvement of nonresident fathers in their  
29 children's schools is particularly important for children in grades  
30 6 through 12 and reduces the likelihood that children will ever be  
31 suspended, expelled from school, or repeat a grade; and

32 WHEREAS, Research documents a positive connection between  
33 the provision of child support by fathers and the well-being of  
34 schoolage children, particularly their cognitive development,  
35 academic achievement, and behavior; now, therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*  
37 *California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the President and*  
38 *the Congress of the United States to pursue a comprehensive*  
39 *approach to addressing issues facing boys and men of color by*  
40 *promoting positive father involvement and mentoring for children*

1 that affirms that fathers and positive ~~adult men~~ *male role models*  
2 are ~~a critical parts~~ *part* of the lives of ~~children~~ *children*, and to  
3 redirect the distribution of funds and resources ~~by~~ *of* the United  
4 States Department of Health and Human Services to the State of  
5 California as part of the White House Initiative on Fatherhood and  
6 Mentoring to assist underserved ~~children~~ *boys* and men of color  
7 throughout the state; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
9 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
10 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the  
11 Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative  
12 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the  
13 author for appropriate distribution.